[23rd February 1934

Reasons for levying a uniform water-rate in Polavaram island.

* 674 *Q.*—Mr. K. KESAVARAMAMURTI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in fixing the consolidated rate for wet lands in the main delta, a differential rate is calculated according to the quality and position of the lands and the same is added to the dry rate; and

(*b*) if so, why a uniform rate of Rs. 10–8–0 is levied in the Polavaram island?

A.—No. The fixing of assessment on lands, wet or dry, is governed by the principles usually followed at settlements. These principles are laid down in Board's Standing Order No. 1 and the Manual of the Madras Revenue Settlement Department. Water-cess on dry lands is levied under the Irrigation Cess Act, and the rate of Rs. 10–8–0 to which the hon. Member refers comes under this category.

Levy of korambu-cess in Namakkal taluk, Salem district.

* 675 *Q.*—K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a cess called korambu-cess is collected along with land revenue for lands in the Cauvery irrigated area in the Namakkal taluk of the Salem district;

(*b*) if so, from which date, for what reasons, and under whose authority such a cess is levied and collected;

(*c*) whether a copy of the order sanctioning the levy of such a cess will be placed on the table;

(*d*) what the rate is of such cess originally levied;

(*e*) whether the rate has been increased subsequently;

(*f*) if so, by how much, when and under whose order or authority;

(*g*) whether a copy of such order or authority will be placed on the table;

(*h*) whether the increase was made temporarily or as a permanent measure;

(*i*) if it was made temporarily, whether it has been again reduced; and

(*j*) if so, when and under what orders and, if not, why not?

A.—(*a*) A cess called the irrigation-cess is being collected.

(*b*) & (*c*) The cess has been in force since 1872. It was imposed in lieu of grain fees payable by the ryots as remuneration to the staff employed to look after the channels and